

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 DUBAN 00232 111702Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 EUR-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00
DOE-15 SOE-02 ACDA-12 EB-08 AID-05 PC-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /138 W
-----084029 111754Z /46

P 111235Z APR 78
FM AMCONSUL DURBAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2887
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY MASERU
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DURBAN 0232

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PDIP, PBOR, PEPR, PRINT, SF (TRANSKEI)
SUBJ: TRANSKEI BREAKS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH
AFRICA

REF: A. DURBAN 227, B. DURBAN 181, C. DURBAN A-23, D. DURBAN 215
E. PRETORIA 2036

1. PRESS REPORTS APRIL 11 CONFIRM AND AMPLIFY APRIL 10
REPORT (REF A) THAT TRANSKEI PRIME MINISTER KAISER MATANZIMA
HAS BROKEN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA OVER THE
EAST GRIQUALAND ISSUE. IN A SPEECH APRIL 10 IN UMTATA BEFORE
THE TRANSKEI NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, MATANZIMA SAID THE GOT HAD
SEVERED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA, WOULD RECALL
ITS AMBASSADOR AND HAD ORDERED THE SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR
TO LEAVE TRANSKEI BY APRIL 30. MATANZIMA CLAIMED STEP WAS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 DUBAN 00232 111702Z

NECESSARY BECAUSE OF THE SAG'S "CONTEMPTUOUS AND BRUTAL
TREATMENT" OF TRANSKEI'S CLAIMS TO THE EAST GRIQUALAND AREA
(NOW PART OF NATAL).

2. BACKGROUND: REFAIR, POUCHED ALL ADDRESSEES EXCEPT USUN NY
ON APRIL 6, PROVIDES DETAILS OF THE HISTORY AND STATUS OF EAST
GRIQUALAND. BRIEFLY, EAST GRIQUALAND IS A 3400 SQ.KM. REGION

TUCKED BETWEEN TRANSKEI PROPER AND THE TRANSKEI ENCLAVE OF UMZIMKULU IN SOUTHERN NATAL. IT HAS A POPULATION OF 34,000 XHOSA-SPEAKING BLACKS, 5,500 WHITES AND 4,500 COLOREDS AND "GRIQUAS". MATANZIMA ARGUES IT SHOULD BE INCORPORATED INTO TRANSKEI BECAUSE A PONDO CHIEF HAD SUZERAINITY OVER THE REGION IN THE EARLY 1800'S. (THE PONDOS, NUMBERING ABOUT 750,000 ARE THE PRINCIPAL XHOSA-SPEAKING GROUP IN THE EASTERN TRANSKEI.) THE SAG CONTENTS, AND THE GRIQUA REMNANTS CONCUR, THAT THEREWERE NO BLACKS INHABITING THE REGION WHEN IT WAS GIVEN TO GRIQUAS BY THE BRITISH IN 1862. JURISDICTION OVER THE REGION WAS TRANSFERRED APRIL 1 FROM CAPE PROVINCE TO NATAL AND MATANZIMA APPARENTLY FELT CONSTRAINED TO MAKE GOOD ON HIS OFT-REPEATED THREATS OF DIRE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE SAG SHOULD IT TRANSFER THE REGION TO NATAL INSTEAD OF TRANSKEI.

3. THE TONE AND THRUST OF MATANZIMA'S SPEECH IS SIMILAR TO ONE HE DELIVERED MARCH 13 WHEREIN HE EVIDENCED A MUCH MORE CONFRONTATIONAL ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SAG AND INVITED "LIBERATION GROUPS" TO ATTEND A CONFERENCE LATER THIS YEAR IN UMTATA TO DISCUSS STRATEGY AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA (REF B). IN HIS APRIL 10 SPEECH HE WENT FURTHER, STATING "WE HAVE BEEN COMPELLED TO JOIN THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND CLAIM THE WHOLE OF SOUTH AFRICA AS BELONGING TO BLACKS AND WHITES, WITH BLACKS CONTROLLING THE MAJORITY....WE ARE GOING TO PROPAGATE MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. FROM NOW HENCEFORTH THIS WILL BE THE FUNDEMENTAL POLICY OF OUR STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION". HE SAID TRANSKEI LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 DURBAN 00232 111702Z

WAS BIDDING ITS TIME BEFORE INITIATING MILITARY ACTION AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA OVER THE LAND ISSUE BUT STOPPED SHORT OF STATING IF OR WHEN IT WOULD DO SO. REFERRING TO THE CRITICAL QUESTION OF ECONOMIC SUPPORT FROM SOUTH AFRICA (WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR 60-80 PERCENT OF TRANSKEI'S NATIONAL BUDGET OF R236 MILLION - \$270 MILLION) MATANZIMA SAID HE EXPECTED THE SAG TO WITHDRAW SUCH AID AND ADDED HE THOUGHT THE SAG WAS CAPABLE OF STARVING TRANSKEI. HE THEN APPEALED TO WESTERN NATIONS TO ASSIST HIS COUNTRY.

4. ONE EXPLANATION BEING ADVANCED FOR MATANZIMA'S PRECIPITOUS ACTION IS THAT HE NEEDED AN ISSUE WHICH WOULD HELP HIM RESTORE HIS POSITION WITH REBELLIOUS PONDOS WITHIN THE TRANSKEI PARLIAMENT AND SOCIETY. IN THE LAST THREE WEEKS APPROXIMATELY 18 PONDON MEMBERS OF THE TRANSKEI ASSEMBLY HAVE SPLIT FROM THE GOVERNING PARTY, TNIP, AND CONSTITUTED A SO-FAR UNNAMED INDEPENDENT OPPOSITION BLOC IN THE ASSEMBLY, PRESENTING MATANZIMA WITH HIS FIRST SERIOUS POLITICAL THREAT IN MANY YEARS (REF D). THE PONDOS COVET EAST GRIQUALAND AND HAVE CRITICIZED MATANZIMA FOR SOME TIME FOR HIS INABILITY TO RESTORE THE AREA TO PONDO CONTROL. WHILE IT IS PREMATURE TO SPECULATE WHAT EFFECT HIS STEP MAY HAVE IN HEALING THE PONDO SPLIT, A REPORTER WHO ATTENDED

THE SPEECH TOLD US THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT APPLAUSE FROM AN OTHERWISE STUNNED ASSEMBLY CAME FROM THE PONDO REPRESENTATIVES.

5. ANOTHER POSSIBLE EXPLANATION FOR MATANZIMA'S DECISION IS HIS DESIRE TO OBTAIN FOREIGN SUPPORT FOR TRANSKEI. HE MAY REASON THAT BY OFFICIALLY BREAKING WIT THE SAG AND SEEKING CONTACTS WITH THE LIBERATION GROUPS HE COULD IMPROVE HIS IMAGE WITH THE WORLD AND ATTRACT THE RECOGNITION WHICH HAS ELUDED HIM.

6. A CRITICAL FACTOR IN MATANZIMA'S ABILITY TO SURVIVE A BREAK IN RELATIONS IS THE QUESTION OF SAG CONTINUANCE OF ITS ECONOMIC SUBSIDY OF TRANSKEI'S NATIONAL BUDGET AND THE FUTURE ROLE OF SECONDED SAG OFFICIALS IN THE NON-SECURITY RELATED MINISTERIES. A REPORTER IN UMTATA TOLD US THAT DESPITE THE BREAK IN DIP-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 DURBAN 00232 111702Z

LOMATIC RELATIONS THE GOT EXPECTS THE SUBSIDY TO CONTINUE AND HAS NO INTENTION OF ORDERING THE SECONDED CIVILIAN SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS TO LEAVE AS IT DID WITH SOUTH AFRICAN SECURITY AND MILITARY OFFICIALS SOME MONTHS AGO.

7. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE PRIME MINISTER VORSTER WILL MAKE A STATEMENT ON THE MATTER IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY APRIL 11. FARBER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS INTERRUPTION, PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DURBAN00232
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780155-0997
Format: TEL
From: DURBAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780471/aaaacinc.tel
Line Count: 144
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 164d20b3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 DURBAN 227, 78 DURBAN 181, 78 DURBAN A-23, 78 DURBAN 215
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3013402
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRANSKEI BREAKS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA
TAGS: PDIP, PBOR, PEPR, PINT, SOPN, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/164d20b3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014